

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05463 081018Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 TRSE-00 /054 W
-----081021Z 069733 /13

R 080841Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4266
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE
SUBJECT: NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON SOFIA MEETING

REF: SOFIA 421

1. THE MARCH 2/3 MEETING OF EASTERN BLOC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
SECRETARIES IN SOFIA RECEIVES PROMINENT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT
IN THE MARCH 5 EDITION OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND. IN A STRAIGHT-
FORWARD ACCOUNT DEVOID OF COMMENTARY, ND REPORTS THAT THE MEETING
CENTERED ON IDEOLOGICAL AND PROPAGANDISTIC QUESTIONS. IT
REPORTS THAT THE GDR DELEGATION WAS COMPOSED OF KURT HAGER
(RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN THE SED POLITBURO),
HERMAN AXEN (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS), AND WERNER LAMBERZ
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05463 081018Z

(INFORMATION AND PROPGANDA).

2. THE ND ACCOUNT MENTIONS FOUR BROAD AREAS
DISCUSSED AT SOFIA: A) PREPARATIONS FOR CELEBRATING THE
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION; B) THE ROLE
OF MASS MEDIA IN FIGHTING FOR THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE
HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND CREATING THE PROPER CONDITIONS FOR THE

BELGRADE CONFERENCE; C) THE IMPORTANCE OF POPULARIZING THE DOCUMENTS OF THE MEETING OF THE 1976 WARSAW PACT MEETING IN BUCHAREST; AND D) THE NECESSITY OF EXPOSING ANTI-COMMUNISM AND REJECTING COMAPIGNS AGAINST THE SOCIALIST STATES ORGANIZED BY IMPERIALIST CIRCLES WHO SEEK TO FALSIFY THEIR POLICIES AND MIX IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT: THE GDR WAS REPRESENTED AT SOFIA BY THREE OF THE SED POLITBURO'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS, INDICATING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEETING. HAGER AND LAMBERZ HAVE BEEN KEY PLAYERS IN THE POST-BIERMANN CULTURAL TIGHTENING UP IN THE GDR, WITH HAGER REPORTED TO BE SOMEWHAT LESS REPRESSIVE WITHGDR WRITERS AND ARTITIS THAN LAMBERZ HAS BEEN IN THE GDR MEDIA SECTOR IN THE BIERMANN AFTERMATH. THUS, IT WOULD APPEAR BOTH THE MORE MODERATE AND HARD-LINE POINTS OF VIEW ON CULTURAL POLICIES WERE REPRESENTED IN THE GDR DELEGATION, WHILE THE SED POLITBURO MEMBER RUMORED TO BE THE MOST HARDLINE, SECURITY CHIEF PAUL VERNER, WAS NOT INCLUDED.

4. GDR PREPARATIONS FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR OVER SIX MONTHS AND APPARENTLY WILL INCREASE IN TEMPO AS THE DATE APPROACHES. THE OCCASION WILL BE OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE GDR, CULMINATING IN A MASSIVE YOUTH FESTIVAL IN EAST BERLIN.
POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, MEETINGS, COMMUNISTS, COMMUNIST DOCTRINE, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05463
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770079-0228
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770384/aaaacvds.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec3a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SOFIA 421
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3182000
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON SOFIA MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, GC, BU, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, (HAGER, KURT), (AXEN, HERMAN), (LAMBERZ, WERNER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec3a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009